

U.S. Application No.: 09/987,901
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 dated August 4, 2004
Response to the Office Action of May 4, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A device for folding a continuous medium, the device comprising:

a swing arm pivotable about an axis at one end of said swing arm, said continuous medium being guided by said swing arm and accordion-folded with equal widths as a result of a swinging operation of said swing arm,

wherein said swing arm includes a telescopic structure varying the length of said swing arm ~~corresponding to a swing angle over a range of~~ to at least two different lengths in a swing of said swing arm.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A device for folding a continuous medium, the device comprising:

a swing arm pivotable about an axis at one end of said swing arm, said continuous medium being guided by said swing arm and accordion-folded with equal widths as a result of a swinging operation of said swing arm,

wherein said swing arm includes a telescopic structure varying the length of said swing arm over a range of a swing of said swing arm, and

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wherein said length of said swing arm is minimum at the center of said range and gradually increases towards extreme portions of said range.

Claim 3 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said length of said swing arm is varied such that the tip of the swing arm does not touch the top surface of said folded continuous medium.

Claim 4 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said swing arm includes an arm main body and a sub-arm which is extendable and retractable from the tip of said arm main body.

Claim 5 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a table for receiving said folded continuous medium fed via said swing arm, said table being vertically movable;
an error detection mechanism for detecting any fold error of said continuous medium;
and
control means for recovering said device from said fold error in such a manner that, upon detection of a fold error, the swinging of said swing arm is stopped, said table is descended through a predetermined distance and then said table is ascended back to its original level.

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Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A continuous medium printing apparatus provided with a device for folding a continuous medium, said device comprising:

a swing arm being pivotable about an axis at one end of said swing arm, said continuous medium being guided by said swing arm and accordion-folded with equal widths as a result of the swinging operation of said swing arm[;], and

wherein said swing arm includes a telescopic structure such that the length of said swing arm ~~varies over a range of~~ is changed to have at least two different lengths in a swing of said swing arm.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a creasing mechanism, and wherein said continuous medium is creased with equal widths as a result of the swinging operation of said swing arm and an operation of said creasing mechanism.